

I support media diversity

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules.

The rules currently in place are there to protect the American people from extremely bias media coverage.

I do not believe that the studies commissioned by the FCC accurately demonstrate the negative affects media deregulation and consolidation have had on media diversity. While there may be indeed be more sources of media than ever before, the spectrum of views presented have become more limited.

With 10 companies owning more than 90% of the airwaves, how can there possibly be a wide spectrum of opinions and views? If these rules of diversity are removed, there will be no spectrum whatsoever, and everything reported and everything broadcast will be from one perspective. This seems to only promote ignorance in the American people, this in a nation that already has one of the worst public education systems in the civilized world. Does the FCC really want to turn this country's population into a bunch of mind controlled zombies?

The right to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. Our forefathers believed that democracy was best served by a diverse marketplace of ideas. If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge, our ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised.

The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding.

In addition, I support the FCC's plan to hold a public hearing on this matter in Richmond, VA in February 2003. I strongly encourage the Commission to hold similar hearings in all parts of the country and solicit the widest possible participation from the public which will be the most directly affected by the outcomes of these decisions. I think it is important for the FCC to not only consider the points of view of those with a financial interest in this issue, but also those with a social or civic interest.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

With little or no advertisement of these rule changes on the airwaves now, it seems like a very sneaky and underhanded move by FCC to try and slip around the rules of the CONSTITUTION and LAWS of this country without letting the people who are to be affected have anything to say about it. Thank you,

Nicolas M. Grizzle